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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Kieran P. J. Murphy, M.D.

Atty. Docket No.: PA-5281

Customer No.: 9896

Serial No.: 09/594,685

Group Art Unit: 3731

Filed: June 16, 2000

Examiner: Not Assigned

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR STRENGTHENING VERTEBRAL BODIES

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION

SIR:

The present amendment is being made to claim priority status to an earlier filed patent application, U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/425,480 filed October 22, 1999, now issued U.S. Patent No. 6,273,916 issued August 14, 2001. Enclosed is a supplemental Declaration signed by the inventor supporting the priority claim.

Applicant respectfully requests that all communications be mailed to the address associated with Customer No. 9896, which is:

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 P. O. Box 2269  
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